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PARIS FOR OECD

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SUBJECT: UK RESPONSE: OECD ENLARGEMENT DEMARCHE AND FINANCING REFORM

REF: STATE 129003

The UK is leaning towards supporting the ministerial text drafted at the May 10 OECD Council meeting regarding enlargement and enhanced engagement. UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office OECD Desk Officer Natalie Golding told us May 11 that the text recognizes the need for accession countries to commit to democratic values and an open economy, but does not mention Russia specifically. The UK supports consideration of candidate countries on their individual merits and is not looking for language that implies an entitlement to OECD membership for any members, including members of the European Union. The UK is also leaning towards supporting Australia's suggestion to include Indonesia in an enhanced engagement program. Regarding financing reform, the UK has been a leader within the G7 and EU in promoting the proposal in ref tel. They believe new members should cover their costs and it would not be fair to ask new members to pay more than current members, so current members should cover their costs as well.

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